

that there are a score or more of souls ready to join in with us as soon as they see success—good works and good fruits—growing up from our organization. May God give us faith to believe and know that we cannot fail if we faithfully work in His vineyard. But we need your help and prayers brethren.

We expect Bro. Rittgers in April to go on with the work he has so ably began.

S. M. MINNICH.  
Andrews, Ind.

#### Jones Mills, Pa.

Eld. James M. Bennett, minister of the Brethren church at Jones Mills, Pa., who died Jan. 19, 1888, was born in Winchester, Va., in the year 1817, and in his young days he united himself with the Methodist church, and was one among the most devoted of the young members in the church at that time.

During his life he was married three times, consequently, had to pass through a great deal of affliction in this life. But no doubt this will only add to his welfare in the world to come.

He was married to his third wife, who survives him, in the year 1860, and the fruits of their marriage were nine children, who survive him.

Eld. Bennett preached for the Methodist church for about fifteen years, but for some reason saw fit to change his church relation and joined the German Baptist church about the year 1858, and was one among her ablest preachers for about 25 years, and was well liked by the people in general. But he was most too progressive for the church in which he lived, yet continued to preach for the German Baptist church until about four or five years ago, when he and his family with fifteen or twenty other members were disowned for agreeing to be obedient to the Gospel instead of the Minutes. And as a result a Brethren church was organized with about twenty members, with Eld. Bennett as their minister. The church prospered until the little fold, with the assistance of their good neighbors, built a very comfortable meeting house in which he and the people often met to worship God. But for the last year or so his health began to fail and he was unable to meet with us as he used to do. He was at our communion meeting in the spring of 1887 for the last time. Some time in July he had an apoplectic stroke and others followed until the 19th of January, when he breathed his last.

Elder Bennet was the first one of the brethren carried into the meeting house a lifeless corpse. Elder Harmon preached the funeral sermon from Romans 8:10, after which the body was laid away to moulder back to dust. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. We sorrow not as those who have no hope. And as the writer was from home at the time of the funeral, allow me here to say to sister Bennet and her family, you have our sympathies in your sad bereavment and our prayers in your behalf.

STEPHEN HILDEBRAND.

#### Flashes From Missouri.

Adrian, Mo., Feb. 24th.—We are still holding forth at this place.

Our doctrine seems new here.

In town it was never preached before.

At this place as at most other places, our brethren have been too rural. May God speed the day when a revolution will take place in this matter among the brethren.

We are being pressed into "doctrinal" preaching. Preached two sermons this week on baptism.

We read for the first time, this week the proceedings of Ashland Convention. Since reading it we feel a little better than we did.

Some of the people here think that much good might be accomplished by sending a Brethren minister into Johnstown Co., Mo., where S. S. M. lives.

Feb. 27, two came out on the Lord's side night before last.

No infidels nor saloons in this town; nearly every body belongs to church, hence such a status.

Our subject for to night is, "who is on the Lord's side." A great, but easily answered question.

Character is not determined by condition, but by volition.

Goodness in the sight of God means obedience to his law.

That joke on the preacher with the pack of cards in the pants he had on, reported by Bro. Mason, is quite amusing, but there is a moral in it. Let preachers be careful as to whose outfit they wear.

We may turn up in Kingman and Sumner Cos., Kans., soon.

W. J. H. BAUMAN.

#### Tiosa, Ind.

Bro. W. W. Summers, in his letter in the EVANGELIST, No. 8, says that the church at this place will commence meetings on Sunday, the 12th. We are glad to inform the readers of the EVANGELIST that we have commenced the meetings. We continued for three successive meetings, then Bro. Summers joined us and we worked together, and while working together we have revived ourselves and the church, and not only revived the professors of Christianity, but those who have never yet accepted Christianity.

We feel as though we have not only fought, but that we have conquered the evil one. God will not only keep us through faith in Him, but he gives us a precious weapon of defense—"The sword of the Spirit." Oh, how necessary an acquaintance with its use—a knowledge of its power. The word of God should be "hid in our hearts," that we may delight in it and feel its power in our lives.

We received four applicants for baptism, and the prospects for the future are growing brighter. We hope that great good will yet be accomplished in this church. We are glad to hear that much good is accomplished in other churches. May the chariot keep rolling.

W. L. STAHL.

Feb. 25, 1888.

#### To Bro. Kilhefner.

DEAR BRO. KILHEFNER:—In the 8th number of the EVANGELIST, current volume, I see you quote my statement made in a former issue, wherein I said "my Bible teaches prayer first, then the laying on of hands," and asks me to "point out chapter and verse where we read that."

But now, brother Isaac, why

did you not answer my question before criticizing my statement? If you read anywhere in God's word that Christ or the Apostles laid on hands and prayed, why did you not just tell me where to find it?

Well, I will answer your question, then I will expect you to answer mine somehow.

For the installation of Deacons, see Acts 6:6. For the consecration of baptized persons, see Acts 8:15-17. For the ordination of Elders see Acts 13:8.

Where in any of these or any other Scriptures do you find laying on of hands and prayer? "How readest thou?" "Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?"

Now brother, I will submit the question again, will you answer it? Please do. Please tell me where, in God's word, you set the example for either ordaining or consecrating people by the laying on of hands and prayer.

If there is an example we ought to know it. If not, we should practice as the Gospel teaches. Frat. yours,

J. H. SWIHART.

#### Akron, Ind.

I left home on the tenth of February for Prattville, Mich., to fill an appointment for Bro. J. H. Swihart, of two week's meeting. Preached twelve sermons in all. We had fair congregations during the meetings for that place. We had good order and good attention during the meetings. No immediate accessions. Nothing was said against the doctrine of the brethren and some said it was cutting deep but it was all gospel and it could not be denied. At the close of the last night's meeting brother J. W. Keiser gave us a short exhortation and kindly asked the people to assist him in paying the rent of the hall and they willingly responded, and we received about six dollars.

Brother Keiser is a whole souled gospel brother, and don't spare his money to build up the cause in his neighborhood. He desires the ministering brethren to come in there and build them up. They are few in numbers but zealous in the cause.

NOAH HEETER.

#### Nappanee, Ind.

Bro. Cober came to our village and began meetings on the first inst. Up to present writing two were made willing to accept Christ and join in the grand army of workers for the Lord.

Our little band has met with reverses and disappointments and many seasons of rejoicing; but it seems that cold water thrown by the enemy, takes time, money and energy with a vast amount of stick-to-itiveness and then the loss is irredeemable. But by patient effort we think all obstacles may be overcome.

Bro. Cober wishes us to say that his entire time is demanded in his pastoral work that he can not fill the demands for revival work and hence all requests for revival work will necessarily be unheeded by him. The brethren church needs more active earnest practice what they preach evangelists. May God raise up such.

P. A. EARLY.

Feb. 9, 1888.

#### Homer Items.

Our meetings are over and as far as we can see without any immediate results. We had very poor attendance, owing perhaps, to several reasons. 1st, there was and still is considerable sickness among the children so that many had to be at home taking care of the sick. Then again, there were literary societies, parties and dances nearly every night to attract the young and keep them away from meeting, and then we had a poor preacher so that the meetings were not very interesting. But perhaps we look at the dark side of the picture.

Last Sunday we filled our appointment on the Smith road, and after services, the brethren having cut the ice, we baptized three in Black river, they having made the good confession during our protracted effort at that place.

H. S. JACOBS.

#### OUR CHURCH.

The news from the field is very encouraging.

Bro. A. L. Garber expects to be at Waterloo, Iowa, next Lord's day.

Bro. P. J. Brown left Ashland last Saturday to fill his appointments at the Bear Creek church, near Dayton, Ohio.

Bro. Abner K. Brown, from near Bryan, Ohio, one of the Trustees of the College, spent last week in Ashland.

Bro. Josiah Keim, of Louisville, Ohio, spent all last week here at Ashland, on College business, and returned home on Saturday.

Bro. Daniel Miller, of Sidney, Ind., is recovering from a spell of sickness. He, recently, has been writing on the subject of church government.

A communion was held at West Independence, Ohio, on the evening of March 2nd. A brother wished we were there, and we greatly wish that we had been too, among relatives and brethren.

Week before last over one hundred conversions were reported; last week over fifty, and more than fifty this week, and already there is word in that a good number will be reported next week.

The meeting closed at West Independence, Ohio, on the 2nd of March. Nearly one-third of a hundred conversions is the result. Bro. Swihart conducted them, assisted by the pastor, Bro. Martin Shively.

We think brother Swihart and Kilhefner are getting into a word squabble over a very trivial matter. All there is in it, Bro. Kilhefner got the hands before the prayer, not thinking about the order when he wrote.

Bro. E. L. Yoder wrote March 1st, that he was moving, and that he hoped to hear favorably from Ashland in regard to the College. Our report elsewhere, is most favorable, and now we expect offers of assistance from all sources.

Bro. Geo. W. DeBolt writes under date of Feb. 29th, that he will commence a meeting at Davenport, Neb., "the last of this week," and promises to write his impressions of Nebraska, for next week. His report of the meetings at Carleton will be glorious—more than half a hundred conversions.

In these reports, often an indefinite number of conversions are reported. This is done to avoid it possible, the liability of counting the same number twice in summing up the number of conversions. When an indefinite number is given, those who do so will please remember that they are not to be counted.

Bro. H. G. Ullery, of Covington, Ohio, sends in an ordinance recently passed by the Council of that village, prohibiting the saloons. There will be five to pack up their knapsacks and go when it takes effect. This is what should take place everywhere. The saloon is a breeder of crime and the sooner the land is free from them the better it will be for everybody.

Can any one answer this letter of inquiry:

MORRISONVILLE, ILL.

It would greatly oblige me if any of your many readers could inform me of the address of Jacob J. Troxel, who is my uncle, married my father's sister, Elizabeth Arnold. The last time we heard, his address was, Winfield, Kans. Your sister in Christ,

ADINA DEAL.

Confession of a fault works more effectually than any mere act of penitence, and is always followed by forgiveness and a love feast. In general it will be found that words, which are, as it were, the minute-hands of the soul, are of greater importance than deeds, which only mark the outstanding dates. In the tender relations of cultured men it is but seldom that deeds can compensate for words or atone for offences of speech. Besides, we owe to all men the same duties of action but not of speech.—Jean Paul Richter.

To the receptive soul the river of life pauseth not, nor is diminished.—George Elliot.

A needle's eye is wide enough for two friends; the whole world is too narrow for two foes.

What a stupendous thing is this human life which we live in many cases as if it were of no consequence!—Carlyle.

If, instead of a gem or even a flower, we could cast the gift of a lovely thought into the heart of a friend, that would be giving as the angels give.—Macdonald.

I have often wondered how it is that every man loves himself more than all the rest of men, and yet sets less value on his own opinion of himself than on the opinion of others.—Marcus Aurelius.

The tendency towards union that, in certain ways, is showing itself in so many directions should not be met with opposition; on the other hand, it should be fostered and encouraged. But it needs careful watching and wise guidance so that it shall be prevented from running off into sentiment and enthusiasm.—United Presbyterian.

Many of the most signal failures of our pastors are the fruit of the neglect of the church members. They fail to attend the meetings of their church, never have a kind and sympathetic work for their pastor, and they manage to avoid all church work. And they seem to wonder that the church does not prosper, and set to abusing and criticising their discouraged pastor, and they lay all the blame on him! Really, they have acted unworthily and unchristianly, and they have been cruel to their pastor. It is not surprising that he desires another field, and is tired of such "brethren."—Christian Index.

Now all who have subscribed to the College should send all the money they can without much delay.